

## THAT ROWAN INVESTIGATION.

Hon. A. E. Cole a Fair Judge, and  
His Appointees Good, Sober  
and Discreet Citizens.

The investigation of Rowan County affairs is panning out just as most every body expected, so, far as Hon. A. E. Cole's conduct as Judge is concerned.

The committee appointed by the Legislature to make this investigation commenced Wednesday. Senator Hendrick is presiding over the meeting. Judge Cole was present with his attorneys, Hon. W. J. Hendrick and W. A. Sudath, Esq., of Flemingsburg.

A special says the first witness examined was the Circuit Clerk, James W. Johnston. He has been Clerk since 1874. He was questioned very closely in regard to the records of the court since 1884. Every case of felony, or of the carrying of concealed deadly weapons, was taken up and its disposition inquired into. It was developed that in small cases a great many worthless bonds had been taken. The Clerk explained that at times the only disposition possible of such cases was the acceptance of such bonds as could be given, the jail being full. There had been twenty murders in Rowan County since 1884, fifteen of which were committed in Morehead. There had been in that time, but three sent to the penitentiary. Of the latter was one for life. The witness explained the seeming disproportion of crime to punishment by the fact that so many of the criminals got killed before they could be tried. In regard to Judge Cole's conduct of his court the witness said he thought it was better than usual. The appointment of Jury Commissioners and the impanelling of grand and petit jurors, were the subjects of particular inquiry. The witness testified that so far as he knew, all the appointments of Judge Cole had been of good, sober and discreet citizens. He testified to the same fact in regard to the juries impanelled since 1884.

The examination of George A. Johnson, the County Clerk, developed nothing particular beyond the fact that the only license to sell whisky in Rowan County for the year 1887 was issued to B. C. Tolliver, of Craig Tolliver, and is now being used by his widow. He thought whisky was being sold without license. He corroborated the Circuit Clerk in his statements in regard to the conduct of Judge Cole's court.

'Squire Hogg, the Sheriff of the county, corroborated the statements of the others in regard to Judge Cole. He thought it would be better to leave Rowan County as it is. There was no trouble at present and none anticipated. He thought the people had enough moral strength to settle their difficulties if given a chance.

Samuel Baily is the Jailer of the county. He was asked if he had ever allowed a prisoner to escape. He replied one—Tom Allen Day.

"How did it happen?"

"Well, I opened the door and he leveled a pistol at my head and told me to get out of the way. I did so, and he just walked out."

The witness had absented himself from Morehead last summer, not because he was afraid, but just for his health's sake.

D. B. Triplett, Police Judge, was appointed by Governor Knott last June. He said all the county officers except the Judge were elected by the Tolliver faction. He thought everything was very quiet now, and fair trials could be had. Thought Judge Cole was a fair Judge, but had heard disaffection expressed. Public opinion was about equally divided on this point.